

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN)
INTEGRATED FAMILY)
COURT PILOT)
_____)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2001-020

The Integrated Family Court Task Force in Maricopa County has designed a pilot project to review and explore improved methods of addressing the needs of children and families as they seek legal and social service assistance from our Court.

The pilot will be conducted at the Southeast Court Facility in Mesa. The structure of the pilot project will primarily involve four judges and their related staff. Two of the judges are currently assigned to the Family Court (Domestic Relations) Department (Judge Mark Aceto and Judge Maria Verdin) and two judges are currently assigned to the Juvenile Court Department (Judge Silvia Arellano and Judge Emmet Ronan). Additional judicial officers and administrative personnel may support the pilot project.

Outcome measures have been identified to determine the efficacy and efficiency of the proposed changes. These performance measures will be tracked and reported in an evaluation following the conclusion of the pilot period. These measures will include: (1) Reduction of time to disposition, defined as follows by case type: Dissolution – Decree of Dissolution; Paternity – Judgment of Paternity; Delinquency – Disposition; Dependency – Finding of dependency as to both parents; Termination of Parental Rights – Final Judgment; (2) Reduction in subsequent contested filings or proceedings; (3) Reduction in the number of judicial officers involved with the “family;” (4) Increase in implementation of ADR components in cases; and (5) Overall litigant and staff satisfaction with the new process.

IT IS ORDERED establishing an Integrated Family Court Pilot at the Southeast Court Facility to review and evaluate the benefits of integrating juvenile and family court matters.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Integrated Family Court Pilot shall commence on Monday, March 19, 2001, and shall continue for twelve (12) months from that date, unless extended by a subsequent order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Integrated Family Court Pilot judicial officers shall exercise jurisdiction over all juvenile and family (domestic relations) court cases assigned within the pilot.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Integrated Family Court Pilot judicial officers shall have authority to include other related family matters as may be practical and beneficial to the just and fair resolution of a family's case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a program evaluation of the Integrated Family Court Pilot shall be conducted and that the final report shall be submitted to Presiding Judge Colin F. Campbell no later than forty-five (45) days following the close of the pilot project period. This evaluation will address the performance measures listed above.

DATED this 12th day of March 2001.

Honorable Colin F. Campbell
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

Attachment: Framework For An Integrated Family Court (dated 2-15-01)

Original: Filed with the Clerk of the Court

Copies: Hon. Colin F. Campbell, Presiding Judge
Hon. Mark W. Armstrong, Associate Presiding Judge (w/o attachment)
Hon. Bethany G. Hicks, Family Court Residing Judge (w/o attachment)
Hon. Maurice Portley, Juvenile Court Department Presiding Judge
Hon. Linda K. Scott, Juvenile Court Department Presiding Judge
Designate
Hon. Kenneth L. Fields, Co-Chair, Integrated Family Court Task Force
(w/o attachment)
Hon. Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Court
Gordon M. Griller, Court Administrator